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His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin mentioned the fact that tar was found to be an effectual preservative against the Potatoe disease, provided the potatoes intended for seed be previously dipped in tar slightly warmed.

The Rev. Dr. Robinson gave an account of the present condition of the Earl of Rosse's great telescope, and detailed some observations made with it during a recent visit to Parsonstown.

In 1845 he had laid before the Academy the results obtained by Sir James South and himself, at the first trials of that magnificent instrument. The most remarkable of them had reference to what has been called the Nebular Hypothesis, in which it is supposed that nebulous matter forms suns and planets by its gradual condensation. Above fifty nebulæ, selected from Sir John Herschel's catalogue, without any limitation of choice but their brightness, were *all resolved without exception*. From this he conceives himself authorized to ask, is there any evidence that nebulous matter has real existence?

The appearances which were supposed to indicate the gradual condensation of this imaginary fluid, namely, an increase of brightness towards the centre (sometimes almost looking like a star surrounded by a faint atmosphere), were shown to be caused by a peculiar construction of the systems in which they had been found. This the telescope demonstrated to consist of a central cluster, mostly globular, of comparatively large stars, surrounded by an exterior mass of much smaller and fainter stars, whose arrangement is often circular and thin like a disc. When seen obliquely, they seem like long oval or pointed rays; and in this case, from the optical condensation of their component stellar points, the resolution is more difficult, but even here it was invariably effected.

He has often been asked why this instrument had given no further results. They who put the question had but a